

REMARKS

The Office Action dated March 12, 2009 has been received and carefully noted. The following remarks are being submitted as a full and complete response thereto. Claims 8-13 are pending. By this Amendment, Claims 11-13 have been canceled herein without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter is presented herein.

Approval of Drawings Requested

Formal drawings of Figs. 1-39 were submitted with the application on June 12, 2006. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner indicate acceptance of the drawings in the next official action.

Allowability of Claims 11-13 Withdrawn

Applicants note the Office Action has withdrawn the indicated allowability of Claims 11-13 in the final rejection of the Office Action dated November 28, 2008 in view of the newly cited U.S. Patent 5,127,253 to Takahara et al. (Takahara) reference.

Allowed Claims

Applicants respectfully acknowledge and appreciate the indication by the Examiner in the March 12, 2009 Office Action that Claims 8-10 are allowed.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 11 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,127,253 to Takahara et al. (Takahara) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,081,858 to Ito et al. (Ito); and Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahara in view of Ito as applied to Claim 11, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,553,416 to Sudoh et al. (Sudoh) or JP2001-152173 to Matsumoto.

Claims 11-13 have been cancelled herein without prejudice or disclaimer, thereby rendering the rejection moot. Thus, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.


Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application, withdrawal of the outstanding rejections, allowance of Claims 8-10, and the prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowability.

Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension, together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to counsel's Deposit Account No. 01-2300, **referencing attorney docket number 025416-00031**.

Respectfully submitted,



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